(c) whether the policy announced in India has brought Indian telecom service providers from giving remote access to any equipment manufacturers; and

(d) if so, to what extent this decision would be welcomed by all?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (d) Government had decided to increase FDI limits from 49% to 74% in telecom sector. Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) and some of the service providers have made some suggestions including those mentioned in parts (a) to (c) of the question for incorporation in the guidelines/notification to be issued for the implementation of the aforesaid decision. These suggestions are being examined and a final decision is yet to be taken.

Morgues Along National Highways

*487. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NHAI has taken steps to build a large number of morgues for accident victims along the National Highways;

(b) if so, whether the NHAI has conducted any study on the need for such morgues;

(c) whether it is a fact that the NHAI is ignoring many representations made by Road Safety Forum to reduce the number of accident victims;

(d) to what extent would NHAI modify its stance and improve its public relations profile immediately; and

(e) the steps proposed by NHAI to carefully respond to demands made by the Road Safety Forum?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

(d) The representations from individuals, organisations are duly considered by NHAI for possible accident reduction measures. The representations from Road Safety Forum have also been attended to. NHAI is always accessible and follows a transparent and open door policy and

is fully responsive to the suggestions received for safety enhancement. Two Non-Governmental Organisations have already been engaged for road safety work on NH-8.

(e) The suggestions/demands from Road Safety Forum have been carefully considered by NHAI and accepted wherever found reasonable and feasible. This practice would continue to be followed.

Unemployment in IT Sector

*488. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the unemployment in Indian IT sector is increasing day by day;

(b) whether Government maintains any data about employment scenario in the IT sector of the country;

(c) whether Government are aware that these kind of situations would hamper the growth of IT industry of the country; and

(d) if so, Government's approach in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) As per information from NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Service Companies) the number of professionals employed in IT Software Sector including ITES (I.T. Enabled Services)/BPO (Business Process Outsourcing) was 2.84 lakhs in 1999-2000. It is estimated to increase to 10.45 lakhs in 2004-05 registering a cumulative annual growth rate of 30%.

In addition, as per MAIT (Manufacturers Association of Information Technology) the number of professionals currently employed in IT Hardware Sector is 1.5 lakhs and the growth rate of employment in this sector is 10%.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Government is aware of the manpower situation is IT Sector. Action is taken from time to time to meet the IT manpower requirements by both the Private and Public Sectors.